

1 CLAIMS:

2 Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new
3 and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

4 1. A data processing system comprising:

5
6 an I/O port for establishing connection between said
7 system and readers;

8 a program having the functionality to communicate with
9 said readers via said I/O port;

10 an operating system providing access of said program to
11 said readers;

12 characterized by the further components:

13 a configuration tool for specifying access conditions
14 of said program to said readers;

15 a reader access layer component for determining the
16 reader to be accessed according to the access
17 conditions specified by said configuration tool.

- 1 2. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
2 said I/O devices are communication links, cryptographic
3 adapters, printers, or plotters.
- 4 3. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
5 said configuration tool may be an integral part of said
6 program.
- 7 4. A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein
8 said configuration tool and said reader access layer
9 may be an integral part of said program.
- 10 5. A data processing system according to claim 2, wherein
11 said configuration tool having access to a reader
12 access list defining access rights and access
13 priorities for that program in conjunction with said
14 readers connected to said system.
- 15 6. A data processing system according to claim 5, wherein
16 for all installed programs a common reader access list
17 is available defining access rights and access
18 priorities for those programs in conjunction with said
19 readers connected to said system.
- 20 7. A data processing system according to claim 5, wherein
21 for each installed program a single reader access list
22 is available defining access rights and access
23 priorities for that program in conjunction with said
24 readers connected with said system.

- 1 identifying a particular reader with the highest
- 2 priority by using said reader access list;
- 3 examining the availability of said particular reader;
- 4 if said particular reader is not available, identifying
- 5 a next reader with the next lower priority by using
- 6 said reader access list and examining the availability
- 7 of said next reader; and
- 8 repeating the steps of identifying and examining using
- 9 a subsequent lower priority as long as an available
- 10 particular reader is identified.
- 11 12. A method according to claim 10, wherein a newly added
- 12 reader automatically receives the lowest priority in
- 13 the reader access list.
- 14 13. A method according to claim 10, wherein programs having
- 15 no assigned priorities in the reader access list
- 16 receive a standard priority in said reader access list.
- 17 14. A method according to claim 10, including changing
- 18 assigned priorities and standard priorities using the
- 19 configuration tool.
- 20 15. A method according to claim 10, wherein the priority
- 21 (0) means that the reader is only available for
- 22 programs with this reader selected.

16. A computer program product stored on a computer-readable media containing software for performing the method according to claim 10.

17. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a data processing system, the computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the functions of claim 1.

18. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing accessing of readers, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 10.

19. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for accessing of readers, said method steps comprising the steps of claim 10.